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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/717,937	11/21/2003	Sang Ho Park	9988.072.00-US	7538
30827	7590	08/05/2004	EXAMINER	
MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP 1900 K STREET, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20006			RINEHART, KENNETH	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3749	

DATE MAILED: 08/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/717,937

Applicant(s)

PARK, SANG HO

Examiner

Kenneth B Rinehart

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

Claim 4 is objected to because of the following informalities: claim 4, line 3 refers to being driving. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Deschaaf et al. Deschaaf et al shows a rotatable drum having an interior for holding laundry (22, fig. 1), a moisture sensor, installed with respect to the interior of said rotatable drum, for measuring water content of the laundry in said rotatable drum and outputting a value indicative of the water content (30, fig. 1); means for converting the water content value output from said moisture sensor to voltage and outputting a voltage signal (36, fig. 1), a pulse detector for outputting a pulse count generated from a contact count of the laundry coming into contact with said moisture sensor (54, fig. 1); and a microcomputer for controlling a dry pattern based on the respective outputs of said converting means and said pulse detector (60, fig. 1), the pulse count output from said pulse detector is directly indicative of an amount of laundry in said rotatable drum, the dry pattern is determined by the amount of laundry in said rotatable drum (fig. 1, col. 3, lines 6-15, col. 4, lines 10-27), a heater for heating air in said rotatable drum and a motor for rotating said rotatable drum, said heater and motor being driving according to the dry pattern, wherein said

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microcomputer drives said heater and motor based on the pulse count output from said pulse detector (col. 2, lines 44-54, col. 2, lines 67-68, col. 3, lines 1-5), said converting means is a voltage converter connected between said moisture sensor and said microcomputer (col. 3, lines 6-10).

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claim 1-3, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Meerpohl. Meerpohl shows a rotatable drum having an interior for holding laundry (1, fig. 1), a moisture sensor, installed with respect to the interior of said rotatable drum, for measuring water content of the laundry in said rotatable drum and outputting a value indicative of the water content (14, fig. 1); means for converting the water content value output from said moisture sensor to voltage and outputting a voltage signal (col. 4, lines 1-6), a pulse detector for outputting a pulse count generated from a contact count of the laundry coming into contact with said moisture sensor (col. 4, lines 6-11); and a microcomputer for controlling a dry pattern based on the respective outputs of said converting means and said pulse detector (4, fig. 1), the pulse count output from said pulse detector is directly indicative of an amount of laundry in said rotatable drum, the dry pattern is determined by the amount of laundry in said rotatable drum (col. 4, lines 12-36), said converting means is a voltage converter connected between said moisture sensor and said microcomputer (col. 4, lines 1-6).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meerpohl in view of Deschaff et al. Meerpohl discloses a rotatable drum having an interior for holding laundry (1, fig. 1), a moisture sensor, installed with respect to the interior of said rotatable drum, for measuring water content of the laundry in said rotatable drum and outputting a value indicative of the water content (14, fig. 1); means for converting the water content value output from said moisture sensor to voltage and outputting a voltage signal (col. 4, lines 1-6), a pulse detector for outputting a pulse count generated from a contact count of the laundry coming into contact with said moisture sensor (col. 4, lines 6-11); and a microcomputer for controlling a dry pattern based on the respective outputs of said converting means and said pulse detector (4, fig. 1). Meerpohl discloses applicant's invention substantially as claimed with the exception of a heater for heating air in said rotatable drum and a motor for rotating said rotatable drum, said heater and motor being driving according to the dry pattern, wherein said microcomputer drives said heater and motor based on the pulse count output from said pulse detector. Deschaaf teaches a heater for heating air in said rotatable drum and a motor for rotating said rotatable drum, said heater and motor being driving according to the dry pattern, wherein said microcomputer drives said heater and motor based on the pulse count output from said pulse detector (col. 2, lines 44-54, col. 2, lines 67-68, col. 3, lines 1-5) for the purpose of controlling various machine functions. It would have been obvious to one of

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ordinary skill in the art to modify Meerpohl by including a heater for heating air in said rotatable drum and a motor for rotating said rotatable drum, said heater and motor being driving according to the dry pattern, wherein said microcomputer drives said heater and motor based on the pulse count output from said pulse detector as taught by Deschaaf for the purpose of controlling various machine functions.

### *Conclusion*

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to driers in general: Janke (3702030).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth B Rinehart whose telephone number is 703-308-1722. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 -4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ira Lazarus can be reached on 703-308-1935. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KBR

  
KENNETH RINEHART  
PRIMARY EXAMINER